REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the following remarks and amendments. Claims 1, 7, and 9 are amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-7, 9 and 11-14 are pending in the application.

I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-7, 9, and 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0029242 filed by Seto (hereinafter "Seto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,321,231 issued to Jebens et al. (hereinafter "Jebens"). Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claim 1 as amended reads as follows:

1. A server connected to a client via a network for editing image data based on image editing commands from the client, the server comprising:

a storing unit to store image files;

a first image editing unit to edit a low resolution part of an image file stored in the storing unit in synchronization with receiving an image editing command from the client;

an informing unit to inform the client other that the image editing process has been completed by the first image editing unit;

a job supplying unit to form a job commanding a high resolution part of the image file stored in the storing unit to be edited and to insert the job in a queue; and

a second image editing unit to conduct a background process at a prescribed timing to edit the high resolution part of the image file stored in the storing unit with respect to the received image editing command from the client in accordance with the job inserted in the queue by the job supplying unit;

wherein the editing of the high and low resolution parts of the image file are conducted separately;

wherein when the client commands display of a part of the image file using the high resolution part in a case where the background process is not completed, the second image editing unit is operable to edit only the high resolution part corresponding to the part of the image file;

wherein the second image editing unit is operable to transmit the edited image file to the client. (emphasis added)

According to an aspect of the present invention, when a portion of an image using the high resolution part is commanded to be displayed in a case where an asynchronous job (e.g., a background process) is not completed, the image editing process is performed only on the portion (e.g., tiles) of the image using the high resolution part of the image, and then the compressed data for the portion of the image using the high resolution part of the image is transmitted to the client computer.

With this aspect of the present invention, when an entire display using the low resolution part is switched to a partial display, no inconsistency between the displayed images will occur (see, for example, line 19 of page 38 to line 24 of page 39 of specification). This avoids the case where editing of a low resolution part and editing of a high resolution part of an image file are conducted separately, the low resolution part and the high resolution part temporarily become different images. Therefore, when a portion of an image using the high resolution part is commanded to be displayed in a case where an asynchronous job (a background process) is not completed, an inconsistency in the displayed images is caused.

Applicants respectfully submit that this feature is not shown in the cited references. Seto an image editing technique that allows a user to give a command to edit and transfer edit command information representing the results of editing. Seto is silent with respect to the situation of when the client commands display of a part of the image file using a high resolution part in a case where the background process is not completed, and does not disclose a second image editing unit is operable to edit only the high resolution part corresponding to the part of the image file. Jebens does not overcome these deficiencies. Jebens merely discloses an editing environment that uses a synchronous optical network. There is no disclosure of using a second image editing unit to edit only the high resolution part corresponding to the part of the image file when a client commands display of a part of the image file using the high resolution part in a case where the background process is not completed.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest this aspect of the present invention and are not able to resolve the aspect of inconsistency between the displayed images.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be useful in moving the application forward to allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 23, 2009

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I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted online via EFS Web to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on September 30, 2008.

3.23.09

Angela M. Quinn March 23, 2009